

Considerations for a Wisconsin model of juvenile justice

2017 WI Act 185, Section 110(4)(e)

“The juvenile corrections grant committee shall develop a statewide plan that recommends which grant applications to approve, based on an overall view toward a Wisconsin model of juvenile justice.”

This Wisconsin model should:

- Be developed in an inclusive manner that incorporates input from youth and families, community stakeholders, mental health and physical health practitioners, experts in juvenile justice and trauma-informed care, and all others who wish to come to contribute to the goal of juvenile justice in Wisconsin.
- Focus on prevention and diversion, and provide accountability and services to youth and families in the system that prepares them to thrive (“DCF Youth Justice Vision and Strategic Plan”).
- Recognize that the post-dispositional secure custody of youth (Type 1, MJTC, SRCCCYs) is one component of the broader youth justice system and should only serve youth who require correctional placement.
- Promote a system where the state agencies, county and local providers work together to enhance program effectiveness and minimize duplication of services.
- Prioritize evidence-based practices that serve youth in smaller, regional facilities that are closer to their communities and foster engagement with their families to promote a successful transition home.
- Promote youth and family voice and involvement with a strengths-based, culturally responsive approach.
- Value community engagement and community safety, both in the short term and in the long term.
- Ensure healthy, safe, and fair healthy environments for the youth in secure custody and the staff who serve them, including consideration of racial and ethnic disparities.
- Require that all youth in secure custody receive evidence-based, trauma-informed, and developmentally appropriate programming and services designed to meet their assessed risks and needs.

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- Integrate best practices to collect, maintain, and analyze data to assess performance and improve outcomes for youth and families.
 - Prioritize the successful and sustained transition for youth from the system immediately upon their entry to prevent and reduce recidivism.
 - Recognize and address the often overly aggressive and intrusive requirements of probation. Ensure probation and other monitoring is trauma informed and considers the needs of the youth and their families.